

Fall/Winter 2018

THE FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON SCHOOL OF NURSING  
AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

# *fore*FRONT

What's Next in  
Nursing  
Science?

INSIDE:

Nursing the Writing Process

Alumni News

# foreFRONT

## CONTENTS



### FEATURES

- 8 What's Next in Nursing Science?
- 20 Nursing the Writing Process

### DEPARTMENTS

- 1 Dean's Letter
- 2 Bricks & Benches
- 25 Alumni News
- 26
- 28 Class Notes
- 30 In Memoriam
- 32 Student Spotlight

#### About Forefront

This publication is produced twice a year for the alumni and friends of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. The *Forefront* mission is to inform readers about the school's excellence in nursing science, education and practice and how it impacts daily lives.

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*dean's*LETTER**Dear Alumni and Friends,**

In late summer, Case Western Reserve University President Barbara R. Snyder asked me to serve as the interim dean for the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing (see page 2). My predecessor, Mary Kerr, often said that being dean of your alma mater is among the highest honors you can receive. She was right.

FPB has been my home for the past 25 years. I could see every brick in the boxes and recycling bins around me as I packed my office to move to the dean's suite.

There were remnants of my life as a student, a staff member, a mentor, an endowed professor, and a researcher. I found notes from committee meetings, student defenses, and my term as chair of the Faculty Senate, plus mementos from my husband and our two kids.

Much of what was not recycled remains packed away, patiently awaiting our move to the new Health Education Campus in May. I did place photographs prominently on the windowsill.

One photo is of my mentors, former Dean May Wykle, the late Professor Marie Haug and other members of the University Center on Aging, where I was a post-doc. The second is of a University-sponsored faculty development cohort in which I participated and remain close to its members. The three remaining photos are of my children: two individual portraits and one of them together on a family float through Lewis & Clark territory in Montana.

The last one is my favorite. The day before leaving for that trip, I received funding for a major grant, which practically guaranteed tenure for me. That photo commemorates a turning point in my career. I was now responsible for helping others build their homes here.

With that in mind, I'm thrilled that the first issue of *Forefront* I get to share with you as interim dean features five early investigators in the story "What's Next in Nursing Science?" on page 8. It's exciting to watch talented young faculty emerge.

On page 20, you will learn how FPB is promoting growth through faculty development and scholarship in the story, "Nursing the Writing Process." You will also meet undergraduate rising star Christine Smothers who serves on the board of the National Student Nurses Association in our Student Spotlight on page 32.

I hope you enjoy this issue. I look forward to meeting you and I want to wish you all the best in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CAROL M Musil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSGA (GRS '91; MSN '79)  
Interim Dean & Marvin E. and Ruth Durr Denekas Professor

## MUSIL NAMED INTERIM DEAN

President Barbara R. Snyder and Provost Ben Vinson III named Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, as interim dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing for the 2018–19 academic year. A double alumna and longtime faculty member of the nursing school, Dr. Musil is also a former chair of the university's Faculty Senate.

"Dr. Musil has demonstrated exceptional leadership in multiple roles at the university and FPB," President Snyder said. "We deeply appreciate her willingness to contribute her talents and skills yet again to support the school during this time of transition."

Dr. Musil has been a member of the FPB faculty since 1994 and is the Marvin E. and Ruth Durr Denekas Professor of Nursing. Her research focuses on stress, health, and caregiving.

For the past 20 years, she has studied the physical and psychological health of caregivers over time, especially grandmothers raising grandchildren. She examines how factors such as resourcefulness and support affect health and family well-being, particularly during times of strain and transition. With a multi-generational view of families, Dr. Musil has included the grandchildren of grandmothers in her research.

She recently received a four-year, \$2 million grant from NIH's National

Institute on Nursing Research for her clinical trial: "GIFT: Grandmother Initiatives in Family Transformation."

She also leads the Pilot Projects Core of the NIH/NINR-funded SMART (Self-Management Advancement through Research and Training: Brain-Behavior Connections) Center at Case Western Reserve University. The Midwest Research Society (MNRS) honored her in 2018 for her "Distinguished Contributions to Research in the Midwest."

Dr. Musil succeeds Mary E. Kerr, PhD, RN, FAAN, FCCM, who completed her term as dean on August 31, 2018. During Dr. Kerr's last year, the school had two of its major graduate programs—Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Science in Nursing—ranked in the top 10 (fifth and sixth, respectively) in *U.S. News & World Report*, and three specialty programs in the top 15. The school's research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), meanwhile, was seventh-highest among the nation's more than 2,000 nursing schools.

"Last year's rankings are a source of pride for all of us," Dr. Musil said, "but even more important are what they represent: excellence in teaching and research. Our graduates are renowned for achieving significant leadership roles across the profession, and our discoveries provide important insights for advancing patient care—and for improving the health



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"Last year's rankings are a source of pride for all of us, but even more important are what they represent: excellence in teaching and research."

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of citizens across the region and country. I look forward to working with our faculty, staff and alumni in the next year to continue these high standards."

## NEW FPB CLINICAL PRACTICE AT JUDSON

The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing has launched the FPB Clinical Practice at Judson Senior Living Community.

Staffed by certified nurse practitioners who are on faculty at the School of Nursing, the practice provides services that include unrushed, engaging appointments for wellness checks, chronic condition management, and acute care needs. The NPs also provide new prescriptions and renewals, testing, and referrals. They even make house calls to all Judson community residents if they have difficulty traveling to the clinic.

“We pride ourselves on real conversations about health,” says practice founder Marie D. Grosh, MSN, CNP, RN, LNHA. “We are focused on the well-being of the whole person, which can take more time and patience than your typical medical appointment.”

Joining Grosh are Stacy Brubaker, MSN, RN, CNP, and Molly J. Jackson, DNP, APRN, A-GNP-C, ACHPN, who provide enhanced health care for older adults living at Judson Manor and Judson Park in Cleveland, Ohio, as well as at South Franklin Circle in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

*To learn more about the FPB Clinic Practice, visit [case.edu/nursing/about/fpb-clinical-practice](http://case.edu/nursing/about/fpb-clinical-practice) or call 216.368.8607*



The International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses named **Faye Gary, EdD, RN, FAAN**, the Medical Mutual of Ohio Kent W. Clapp Chair & Professor of Nursing, as the recipient of the 2018 Diversity and Equity Award.

The Greater Cleveland Nurses Association and *Cleveland Magazine* named **Susan M. Ludington, PhD, RN, F-CNM, CKC, FAAN**, the Carl W. and Margaret Davis Walter Professor of Pediatric Nursing, as the 2018 recipient of the Faces of Care Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Shirley M. Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Distinguished University Professor and the Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor in Nursing, received the 2018 Outstanding Nurse Scientist Award from the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science.

Case Western Reserve University named **Christopher J. Burant, PhD, MACTM, FGSA**, associate professor, as the 2018 recipient of the John S. Diekhoff Award for Graduate Teaching. Dr. Burant is the first ever, two-time winner of the Diekhoff Award, which he first won in 2015.

The National Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence selected **Diana Lynn Morris, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA**, Florence Cellar Associate Professor of Gerontological Nursing; Executive Director, University Center on Aging & Health, to serve on its 2018-2019 Nominating Committee.

The Greater Cleveland Nurses Association elected **David M. Foley, PhD, MSN, RN-BC, MPA**, assistant professor, as President-Elect.

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists elected **Sonya D. Moore, DNP, CRNA**, assistant professor and director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, to serve as its director for Region 6. Dr. Moore also received a Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) from the Health Resources & Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions.

## NEW GRANT FROM THE JOHN A. HARTFORD FOUNDATION, INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT TO ENHANCE AGE-FRIENDLY CARE AT MINUTECLINIC LOCATIONS

The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University is working with MinuteClinic, the retail medical clinic of CVS Health, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to enhance care for the increasing number of older patients treated by nurse practitioners and physician assistants in MinuteClinic locations across the country.

The project is supported with a one-year planning grant of up to \$945,000 from The John A. Hartford Foundation as part of its Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative.

Age-Friendly Health Systems is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA).

"The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative has become a movement to transform care for all of us as we age, thanks to our collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and our other partners," said Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. "Through this new partnership with Case Western Reserve and CVS Health's MinuteClinic, we have the tremendous opportunity to spread and scale the principles of Age-Friendly care to even more older adults in even more communities."

### Implementing Age-Friendly Principles

A Case Western Reserve team will work with MinuteClinic to plan the implementation of the "4Ms" (What Matters, Medication, Mentation and

Mobility), the Age-Friendly initiative's cornerstone framework designed to be equally effective in acute care and ambulatory settings.

The team, with advising from IHI, will incorporate 4M-specific assessments and interventions into existing electronic medical record-keeping and help train staff.

Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor and director of the QSEN (Quality Safety Education for Nurses) Institute at the nursing school, will lead the project. She said her team will provide expertise in gerontology, implementation, and educational technology.

The partners plan to identify MinuteClinic sites across the country that serve a significant aging adult population as pilot locations for Age-Friendly care.

Ultimately, the goal is to bring this Age-Friendly care to all 1,100 MinuteClinic locations nationwide and train more than 2,900 nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

"Since its inception, MinuteClinic has offered care through more than 42 million patient visits with high marks on customer satisfaction," said Sharon Vitti, senior vice president of CVS Health and executive director of MinuteClinic. "Through our partnership with Case Western Reserve and IHI, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to further enhance quality, Age-Friendly care within our clinics."

### Health systems join 'Action Community'

As part of the project, representatives from both Case Western Reserve and MinuteClinic, along with 72 other organizations, are also participating in

the Age-Friendly Health Systems Action Community, launched in September.

"Along with The John A. Hartford Foundation, IHI understands the importance of ensuring that every older adult receives the care that prioritizes health challenges that often matter most to older adults, such as mobility and managing medications," said Kedar Mate, IHI's chief innovation and education officer. "It is particularly important that these areas are addressed across the care continuum, from community-based clinics to hospital settings.

"By engaging in the Age-Friendly Health System Action Community, Case Western Reserve and MinuteClinic are poised to lead the way in supporting Age-Friendly care in retail ambulatory care settings."

The Age-Friendly initiative addresses some very specific considerations for serving an aging group of patients, said Evelyn Duffy, DNP, AGPCNP, FAAN, associate director of the University Center on Aging and Health and lead faculty of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the nursing school.

That means understanding that a provider's plan for care may not initially align with the older patient's ideas, she said. For example, a patient may state their desire to spend time with their grandchildren and choose to not undergo an elective procedure.

"So what matters most to the patient may surprise the provider and upend the plan they had so carefully crafted," Dr. Duffy said. "But the result is one that better reflects the values and concerns of the older adult."



## HICKMAN NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH

Associate Professor Ronald Hickman Jr., PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, FAAN, is the new associate dean of research at Case Western Reserve's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Dr. Hickman, who holds several degrees from Case Western Reserve University, joined the faculty a decade ago and has an established record of accomplishment of NIH-funded research projects related to decision-making, decision-support interventions, and health services' utilization of the acutely/chronically critically ill.

In addition to numerous national awards, he has also won the university's two highest honors for mentoring: The John S. Diekhoff Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring, and the J. Bruce Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring. At the 2018 American Association for Men in Nursing Conference, Dr. Hickman received the 2018 Luther Christman Award.

"Dr. Hickman has distinguished himself as a leader in research not just at FPB but nationwide," said Carol Musil, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, interim dean and Marvin E. and Ruth Durr Denekas Professor of Nursing. "His dedication to elevating FPB's research profile, and his personal commitment to mentoring young talent, makes him the ideal candidate for this position."

Dr. Hickman succeeds Shirley Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN, Distinguished University Professor and Edward J. and Louise Mellen Professor of Nursing. Dr. Moore has stepped back from this role to co-chair the school's dean search committee with Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Dean Grover "Cleve" Gilmore.

"Dr. Moore has lead FPB's research efforts to new heights during her 18 years as associate dean," said Interim Dean Musil. "The school has been in the top ten for NIH funding for nursing schools for the past two years and I look forward to working with her in this new role."

**Mary Dolansky, PhD, RN, FAAN**, associate professor and director of QSEN, received a \$2,187,305 grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration's Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention program (HRSA NEPQR) for Enhancing Nurse Roles in Community Health (ENRICH): Undergraduate and Workforce Training and Education in Primary Care.

**Nicholas Schiltz, PhD**, assistant professor, received a \$84,392 grant from the Ohio Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP) for the Ohio Opioid Analytics Project.

**Allison Webel, PhD, RN, FAAN**, assistant professor, was awarded a U01 Grant Award of \$3,065,288 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH, for a nurse-led intervention to extend the HIV treatment cascade for cardiovascular disease prevention (EXTRA-CVD).

**Andrew P. Reimer, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, received a \$476,971 the R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH, for Identifying Electronic Phenotypes associated with Patient Health Outcomes of Interhospital Transfer Patients.

## FLU: WHY VACCINATE?

With flu season approaching, Associate Professor Irena Kenneley, PhD, RN, CNE, CIC, FAPIC, explains why it is still important for individuals to receive their annual flu vaccine.

### 1. When exactly is flu season?

The timing of peak activity varies from year to year. Peak influenza activity in the U.S. usually occurs December through February, but there can be substantial influenza activity up until the month of May.

The influenza virus is among the most likely to create significant epidemics in humans. The virus causes acute upper and lower respiratory tract infections, and can lead to potentially serious complications, such as pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections.

The flu can be spread from person to person when an infected person talks, sneezes or coughs. The virus circulates globally and affects all age groups.

### 2. Why is it so difficult to make flu vaccines?

One of the best ways to prevent the flu is through vaccination. In general, flu vaccinations have an excellent safety record, but their efficacy varies greatly. Sometimes, the vaccine fails due to a mismatch of virus strains.

The problem with the influenza virus is that it is a moving target with dozens of strains. Unlike measles or chickenpox, which are stable viruses, the influenza virus mutates from year to year, enabling it to



evade our immune system. From an evolutionary perspective, that makes it very successful.

The influenza virus can even cross over to other animals and then back to humans. When that occurs, it can create a new and potentially lethal strain that can quickly become widespread.

Scientists are searching for a universal vaccine that would work against a wide variety of influenza viruses. An influenza vaccination that is genuinely universal would both protect us from viral mutations and give us lifelong immunity.

While there are many new ideas for designing a universal influenza vaccine, it will take years to develop one.

### 3. What does this mean for me?

Each year, only about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. receive the flu vaccine.

Anything you can do to help prevent you and your family from getting the flu is very beneficial. The

CDC recommends annual influenza vaccinations for everyone age 6 months or older.

Vaccination is especially important for pregnant women, the elderly and others at high risk of influenza complications.

You can also prevent the spread of flu by washing your hands well and disinfecting common high-touch surfaces. Children should be taught to cover their coughs and stay home when sick, so as not to share their germs.

For people with confirmed or suspected influenza, particularly those who are at high risk for complications, it is important to seek treatment with influenza antiviral medications as close to the onset of illness as possible.

Although the effectiveness of the U.S. flu vaccine is difficult to estimate precisely, the vaccine remains a valuable public health tool. It is always better to get vaccinated than not to get vaccinated.

## NEW METROHEALTH SYSTEM AFFILIATION AGREEMENT INCLUDES ENHANCED TRAINING

A new affiliation between Case Western Reserve University and The MetroHealth System will give students at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing greater educational, clinical, and research opportunities.

Under the new affiliation agreement, FPB nursing students can train and conduct research at MetroHealth's main hospital on West 25th Street in Cleveland. Specifically, the affiliation will align educational training experiences for CWRU undergraduate and advanced practice nursing students with clinical experts across specialty areas throughout MetroHealth.

"This is good for basic practice, this is good for public health, and this is good for science that informs practice," said Mary Terhaar, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, associate dean of academic affairs at FPB. "This is a true academic-practice partnership that will be better for not only teaching, but for patient care."

MetroHealth's Chief Nursing Officer Melissa Kline, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, will serve as an associate dean for clinical affairs at the School of Nursing. She will oversee the clinical component of the academic activities for the school within the hospital system, according to the affiliation agreement.

"The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing is an excellent partner and we look forward to our continued relationship with them to train the nurses of tomorrow," said Dr. Kline. "The collaboration provides excellent opportunities for our future leaders in health care."

The agreement will provide for specific types of faculty designation for nurses at MetroHealth who actively participate in collaborative training, education, and research with CWRU students and faculty. The two institutions will also explore future opportunities for collaboration.



Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging named **Shanina Knighton, PhD, RN**, post-doctoral fellow, as the recipient of its 2018 Innovative Research on Aging Award.

**Julia Blanchette, BSN, RN, CDE**, PhD student and Jonas Scholar, received the FPB Alumni Association Research Award for Financial Stress Factors, Psychological Symptoms and Self-Management Outcomes in Emerging Adults with Type I Diabetes.

post-doctoral & student awards

## FPB SOCIAL MEDIA RANKED #12

When nursing students need a place to connect with classmates and instructors, they turn to the same social media platforms they use every day. The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing is a recognized expert in using social media to keep students connected. FPB was recently named #12 on the GraduateNursingEDU's 100 Most Social Media Friendly Nursing Schools of 2018.



Stay connected and join the conversation.



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**New researchers bring liberal arts, business backgrounds and more to health care research.**



JESSICA ULLIAN

**A**t the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, five of the school's newest researchers represent a broad range of research interests, academic backgrounds, and methodology. They share a commitment to the innovation and discovery that can yield breakthroughs in preventive care, improved results in clinical settings, and boost quality of life for patients of every age, race, and economic background.

"Research offers a unique opportunity to address questions that have never been answered, and generate new knowledge," said Grant O'Connell, PhD, an assistant professor. "However, it's always been important to me that the knowledge my work generates has the potential to have a downstream impact on clinical care. The possibility that the work I do in the lab could improve the lives of patients is extremely motivating."

# CAROLYN HARMON STILL

## CAROLYN HARMON STILL, PHD, MSM, AGPCNP-BC, CCRP

**H**armon Still (GRS '10, MGT '16) has a secret weapon in her fight against hypertension in minority populations: her ability to read a spreadsheet and balance a budget.

After years of clinical work toward her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in nursing, she took a position project-managing the National Institutes of Health-funded Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), examining the effect of lower blood pressure on cardiovascular, kidney, and cognitive function in older adults. "I had oversight management of all the clinics, and a study budget of \$23.5 million — and you don't get that training in your PhD program!" Harmon Still said.

Under Dr. Harmon Still's management, the SPRINT study received an additional year of funding to further explore connections with dementia. This additional funding provided some support for her own primary research focus — helping patients use mobile technology to monitor and control their symptoms. Her research has found that while African-Americans disproportionately suffer from hypertension and accompanying comorbidities, the technology-focused interventions — such as mobile-device applications that allow them to record and monitor exercise and diet — have not effectively reached that population.

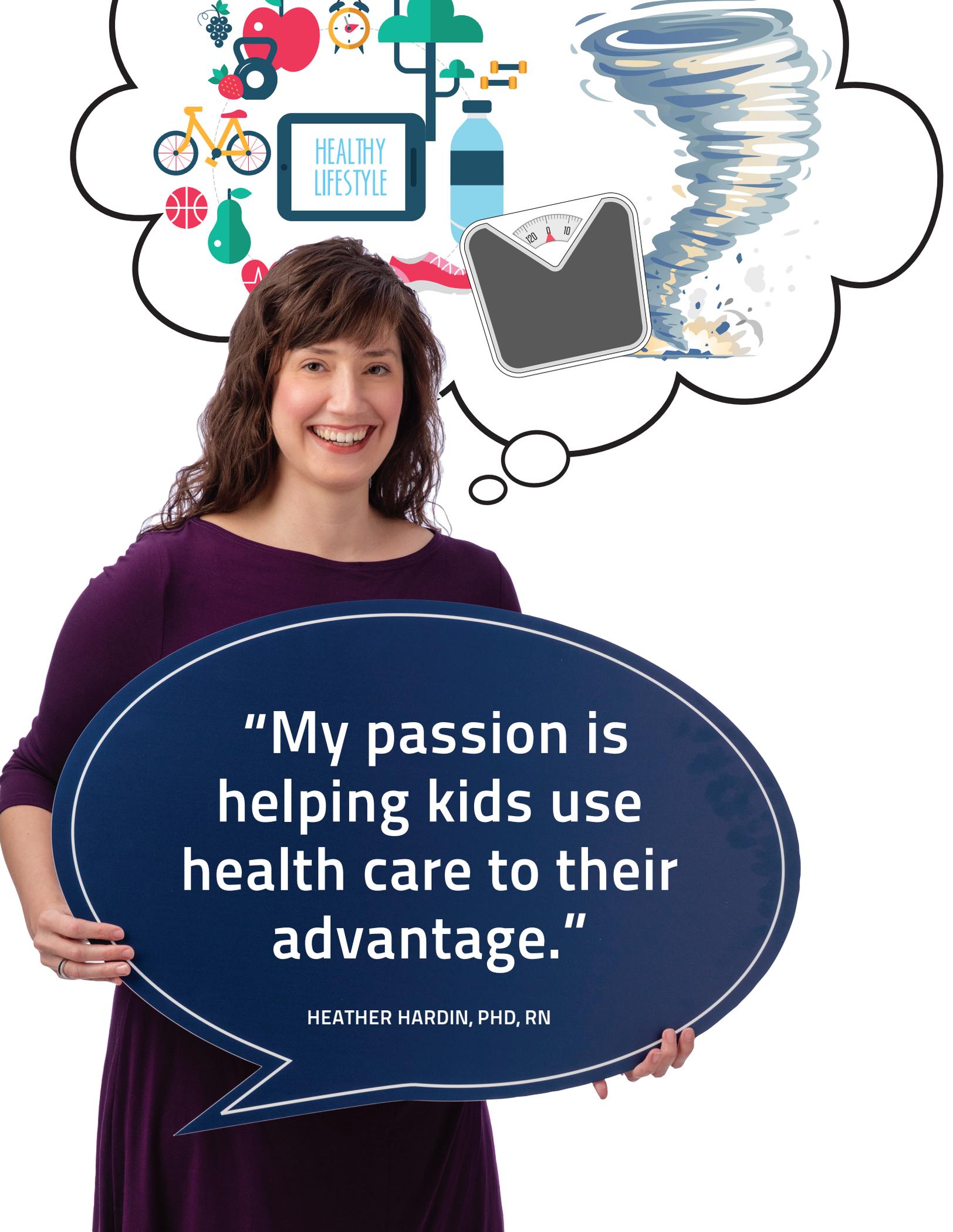
"There seems to be a perception that minority populations do not use technology, or that they are not invited into trials that use technology to improve self-management," Harmon Still said. "We have to start those conversations, and develop training for people to use these devices."

Harmon Still reaps the benefits of her education each day, from the practicum experience years ago that alerted her to the discrepancy in outcomes for minority patients, to her present-day focus on real-world solutions for getting proven tools into the hands of underserved populations. "My drive and passion is to see minority populations utilizing technology as a self-management support for hypertension," she said. "We have to link people with technology as a method of improving their health and well-being."



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**CAROLYN HARMON STILL, PHD, MSM, AGPCNP-BC, CCRP**



**"My passion is helping kids use health care to their advantage."**

**HEATHER HARDIN, PHD, RN**

## HEATHER HARDIN, PHD, RN

**T**he most critical component of Hardin's research isn't the fMRI she uses to assess adolescent neuro-processing, or the biomarkers to measure self-regulation. It's trust; specifically, how the role of trust in health care affects adolescent weight and depression management.

"When I worked as a nurse and nutritionist for the federal Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, several of my patients mentioned trust in discussions about their health," Hardin says. "Then our community experienced significant damage from a tornado, and families refused to take assistance from relief organizations because they didn't trust them. But families had no problem accepting the donations when they came from those of us at WIC, where they had established trusting relationships with the staff. These experiences got me thinking about how trust influenced health care."

The potential link between trust and health behaviors in adolescents, who are poised to develop habits as teenagers that can last a lifetime, inspired Hardin to develop a series of pilot studies to evaluate how trust-building can work hand-in-hand with self-management and prevention. One study, part of the National Institute of Nursing Research P30 Self-Management Advancements through Research and Translation (SMART) Center at the School of Nursing, uses fMRI imaging to assess adolescent neuro-processing as it relates to trust and weight management. Another study examines adolescent/parent synchronous heart rate variability during behavioral interactions, with the goal of evaluating and refining depression management interventions.

Hardin's mother was a nurse, and she saw first-hand how that kind of connection to a health care provider can have a positive impact on the long-term health of adolescents, particularly those in at-risk populations, such as people in low-income communities.

"I grew up in a large family from a low-income, rural area, and I've witnessed many of the difficulties in accessing health care and making health care decisions inherent to a lack of resources," Hardin said. "My friends would ask my mom their health questions, because they knew they could get reliable information without judgment."

Now Hardin seeks to help clinicians and researchers replicate those key relationships on a larger scale, through programs including early-stage investigator mentorships and a parent-child study of adolescent obesity. "My passion is helping kids use health care to their advantage," she said. "I'm developing a program of research that helps teens build relationships to make healthy choices within their own lives."

# HEATHER HARDIN

# SCOTT MOORE

## SCOTT MOORE, PHD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC

**A**t first glance, Moore's current field — the study of aging among people living with HIV by using big data and bioinformatics approaches — might not have a lot in common with his prior career as a high school speech and debate teacher. But the two are linked in often surprising ways, he says.

"My undergraduate degree in English allows me to look at things from different perspectives," he said. "And sometimes, that can be a great benefit."

Moore, who pursued a second bachelor's degree in nursing after his first degree in English, followed by a master's in nursing and then a doctorate in health care genetics, has had plenty of opportunity to look at health care problems from multiple perspectives. The son of a nurse, he went into health care out of a desire to help people improve their daily health experiences. After beginning his career in emergency and trauma, he moved on to a nurse-managed health care center, where he worked in women's health and served rural communities in South Carolina. The experiences of working with underserved populations helped him refine his focus: understudied and vulnerable populations dealing with complex chronic illnesses and symptom experiences — specifically, people aging with HIV.

His interdisciplinary background has allowed him to take a precision-health based approach to research, using bioinformatics to examine biologic sex-based differences in HIV-positive geriatrics, and differentiating illness trajectories. Current projects include a nursing research grant from the American Nurses Foundation to observe aging and frailty biobehavioral patterns.

Diversity of skill — and point of view — he says, are critical to advancing the work. "Plenty of people continue to bring new approaches and perspectives to nursing, which I think makes nursing science very valuable," he said. "Our ability to lead research teams with varied disciplines is very important and allows us to complement the science of nursing to continue to innovate."



"Our ability to lead research teams with varied disciplines is very important and allows us to complement the science of nursing to continue to innovate."

SCOTT MOORE, PHD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC



**“The probability that my research could have true clinical impact was really invigorating.”**

**GRANT O’CONNELL, PHD**

## GRANT O'CONNELL, PHD

**O**'Connell (GRS '13) was halfway through his doctorate in pharmacological sciences when an advisor connected the dots between his studies in molecular biology and his future in research. The missing link? Clinical stroke research, where O'Connell currently investigates the human immune response to stroke, with the goal of developing diagnostics and therapeutics.

"I had a phenomenal advisor who was a clinician and nurse scientist in stroke research. Working with them I realized that there were many ways that advanced molecular biology techniques could be applied to answer clinically relevant questions," he said. "The probability that my research could have true clinical impact was really invigorating."

O'Connell was already well-versed in studies of the central nervous system; he'd studied kinesiology as an undergraduate, writing a thesis on central nervous system trauma in ground squirrels, and received a master's in exercise physiology, examining small-protein signal transduction in skeletal muscle. When he turned to stroke research, he discovered that the same techniques could be used to search for biomarkers in the human immune system, which could be an early indicator of stroke.

"One of our main focuses right now is the use of omic and machine-techniques to search for activation patterns in the circulating immune system," he said. "If we're successful, it could lead to development of a blood-based stroke test that could be used to guide early triage decision-making in the back of an ambulance or in an emergency department."

O'Connell's research has already identified a number of potentially impactful biomarkers; recent and upcoming publications compare stroke-associated patterns of gene expression in machine learning and an independent patient population, how circulating leukocytes perpetuate stroke-induced aortic dysfunction, and how early differential expression of chemotactic genes in peripheral blood predicts post-stroke blood brain barrier disruption.

While his appointment at the School is his first at a school of nursing, O'Connell says that the growing emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration in both health care and science makes it a natural next step in his research career. "Having a diverse background is particularly useful now," he says. "It can allow you to look at questions through a different lens, and identify truly innovative solutions."

GRANT O'CONNELL

# NICHOLAS SCHILTZ

## NICHOLAS SCHILTZ, PHD

**T**he personal is always political with Schiltz, whose undergraduate studies in political science and quantitative economics go hand-in-hand with his epidemiology research. In using data mining algorithms to analyze large health care databases, including Medicaid claims and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, he hopes to get information about outcomes, costs, and predictive analysis that could help nurses and other practitioners navigate the health care system.

“I think a background in political science and economics helps me understand the very complicated U.S. health care system,” Schiltz said. “One example is preventative care — almost every clinician and policymaker is in agreement that preventative care is important. But the U.S. lags behind most other developed countries in this area, largely because the market incentivizes performing surgeries rather than preventing the need for them.”

Schiltz started his career at the CWRU Population Health and Outcomes Research Core, where his assessments of clinical areas consistently demonstrated a link between comorbidities and poor outcomes. It led to an interest in patients with multiple health conditions, which led to his current assessments on patients with multiple medications.

Ultimately, he hopes his research can yield hands-on results for nurses, whether that means more productive collection and analysis of patient data, or informed leadership on best practice and policy decisions. “Analytics play an increasingly important role in medical decision-making. We need to make sure nurses have a seat at the table, since they are at the front line of care,” he said.

Again, Schiltz’s investment is personal: his son was born prematurely last year, and spent 10 weeks in the NICU, where Schiltz observed first-hand how well his son’s care was coordinated.

“The physicians, nurses, and others worked well together, and made decisions as a team,” he said. “That’s what good quality care should look like.”

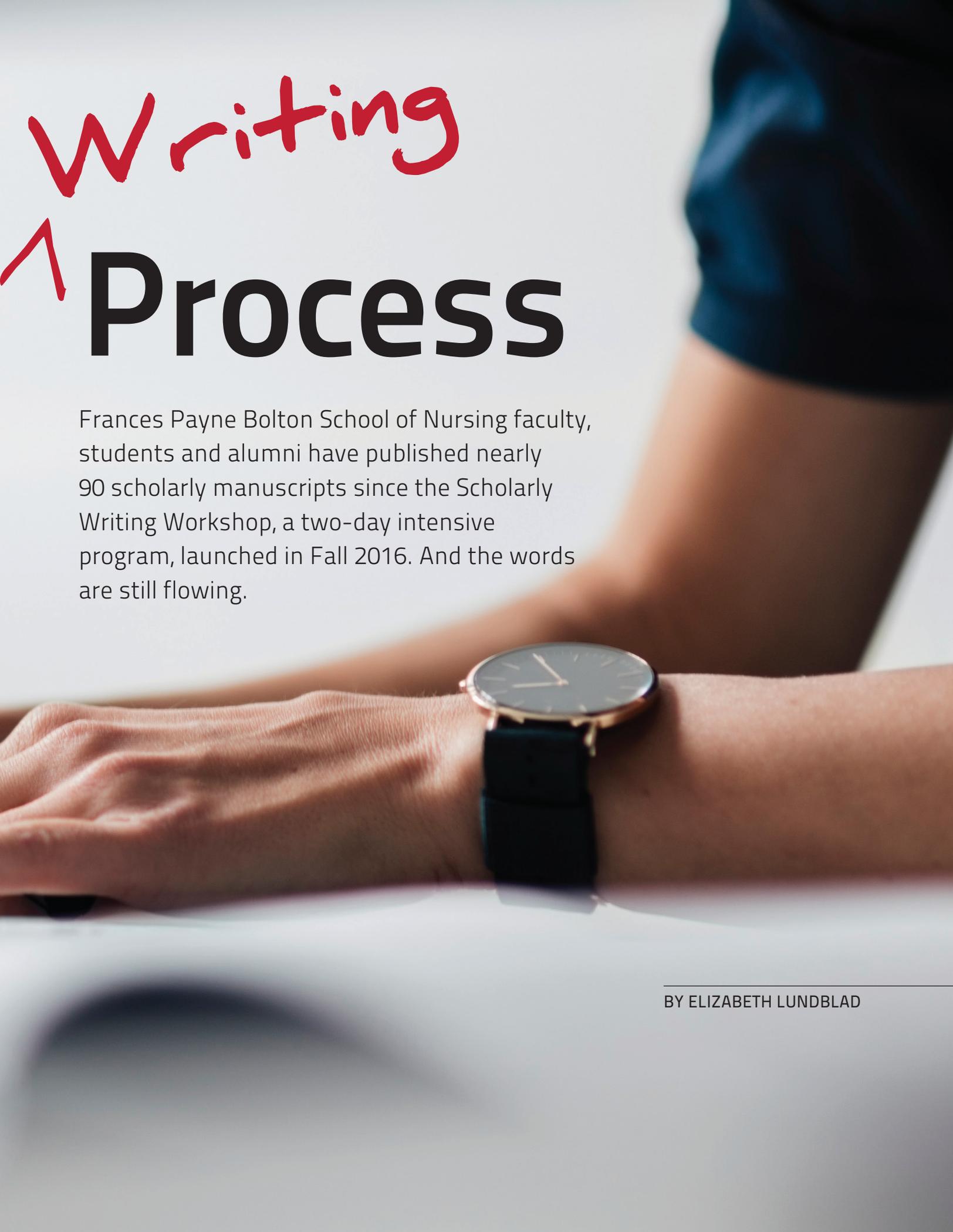


"Analytics play an increasingly important role in medical decision-making."

NICHOLAS SCHILTZ, PHD

# Nursing the



A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand resting on a white surface. The person is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved shirt and a black watch with a gold-colored case. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Writing Process

Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing faculty, students and alumni have published nearly 90 scholarly manuscripts since the Scholarly Writing Workshop, a two-day intensive program, launched in Fall 2016. And the words are still flowing.

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BY ELIZABETH LUNDBLAD

“Sometimes you just get stuck. You may write a part over and over, or you’re not sure how to organize your thoughts. It’s hard to diagnose your own difficulties.”

---

It’s quiet except for the scratching of pens on notepads, the shuffling of papers, and the movement of fingers across laptop keyboards. The environment has been likened to strict libraries or study halls where interruptions are shushed with alacrity.

“There are no phones, no email. We start early and work until the end of the day,” said Mary Terhaar, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean of academic affairs and the Arline H. and Curtis F. Garvin Professor of Nursing at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University.

Breakfast, lunch, and coffee—lots of coffee—are provided for the writers, which number around 10 to 15 during each session with everyone logging about eight or nine hours of writing each day. In the summer, the workshops meet on Thursdays and Fridays, and monthly over a weekend during the school year.

“We have had more than 86 publications in about a year and a half, from faculty who also have significant teaching and research responsibilities,” she said. “That’s 86 contributions to the scientific literature—86 places where FPB is evident in the literature. And, we have a cadre of clinical faculty who previously had never published but are now successfully in press.”

One of those projects includes a chapter in a new textbook on advanced physiology for neonatal nurse practitioners, the first of its kind in the field. Amy Bieda, PhD, APRN, PNP-BC, NNP-BC, director of the undergraduate nursing program; Terhaar; and Mary Elaine Patrinos, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine are authors on the chapter on sexual reproduction. “This type of resource didn’t exist and we’ve needed one for years,” Bieda said.

For Terhaar—who launched the writing program with FPB faculty members Joyce Fitzpatrick, Irena Kenneley, and Donna Dowling—the workshops are about the nuts and bolts of scholarship, and helping faculty find their voices in the annals of scientific publication.

“If you carve a duck from a piece of wood it’s really simple—you just carve away everything that isn’t a duck,” said Terhaar, pointing to a carved duck in her office. “In writing you decide what to keep and what to carve away. It can be really hard, especially if you have lots of other demands for your time.”

For faculty who teach and have an active practice, writing the first article can be a daunting task without guidance.

“In the workshop you get to share your frustrations and your successes,” said Joyce Fitzpatrick, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor of Nursing. “We try to build a writing support group in addition to giving personalized feedback about individual publications.”

## ~~STRIPPING~~ BARRIERS TO WRITING

Removing the logistical and physical barriers to writing was one thing. Another barrier the workshop had to remove was plain old writer’s block.



“Sometimes you just get stuck,” Terhaar said. “You may write a part over and over, or you’re not sure how to organize your thoughts. It’s hard to diagnose your own difficulties.”

The workshop, Bieda said, is an excellent way to block off a period of time to work in quiet and focus.

While the majority of participants are FPB faculty and graduate students, the reputation of the nursing writing workshop is growing. Edwin Mayes, director of first-year experience and family programs at Case Western Reserve, began attending the workshop in fall 2017.

Mayes, who is working on his dissertation through Ohio University, said he had been struggling with the balance of being a full-time employee and finding the time and discipline to write.

“There’s always something else that drags you away from writing,” said Mayes, whose office supports the nursing school programs like Prepare 2 Care—1st year nursing student orientation—and the Stethoscope Ceremony. “I had a conversation with my nursing school colleagues about my writing struggles and their support was very motivating, and they suggested the writing workshops.”

Motivation is a recurring theme. On his first day as



faculty at the School of Nursing, David Foley, PhD, MSN, RN-BC, MPA, assistant professor and director of faculty development, joined the program.

“I had just walked in the door. I didn’t really know where my office was,” he said. “I sat down with a legal pad and started writing.”

Those words he wrote in August 2017 were reworked and refined. He submitted the manuscript in October, and it was accepted for publication in January 2018.



Mary F. Terhaar, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN



Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN



David M. Foley, PhD, MSN, RN-BC, MPA

“One of the things that the workshop demonstrates is that nursing is a lifelong learning process. You never stop moving forward.”

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## PRESSURE TO PUBLISH

“As in many academic nursing environments, particularly in research intensive schools of nursing, there’s a lot of pressure on faculty to publish,” Fitzpatrick said. “And nurses often—including faculty—have not been socialized into publication as part of their responsibilities.”

Fitzpatrick said the writing workshop has two goals: to disseminate the good work that FPB faculty and alumni are doing, and give them the skills to publish.

“All of our faculty are doing excellent work,” she added. “My experience is that everyone has at least one good publication waiting to come out.”

For Foley, having the block of protected time allowed him to better organize thoughts that were formulated in bits and pieces in the weeks preceding a workshop and translate those thoughts into the written word. It’s also a

time to talk to colleagues and receive feedback, opinions, and suggestions for alternative publication avenues.

“It’s an opportunity to make ourselves vulnerable a little bit, and realize that we’re all facing the same issues with writing,” he said. “We can let our defenses down, and say we’re dealing with the same pressures of trying to produce high-quality scholarly work. Some are new to it and others are not.”

## THE NEXT DRAFT

The Scholarly Writing Workshops, now a powerful part of the School’s infrastructure, are available to help people achieve success, Foley said. It’s something that faculty and students should appreciate because other nursing schools don’t offer similar programs of this caliber.

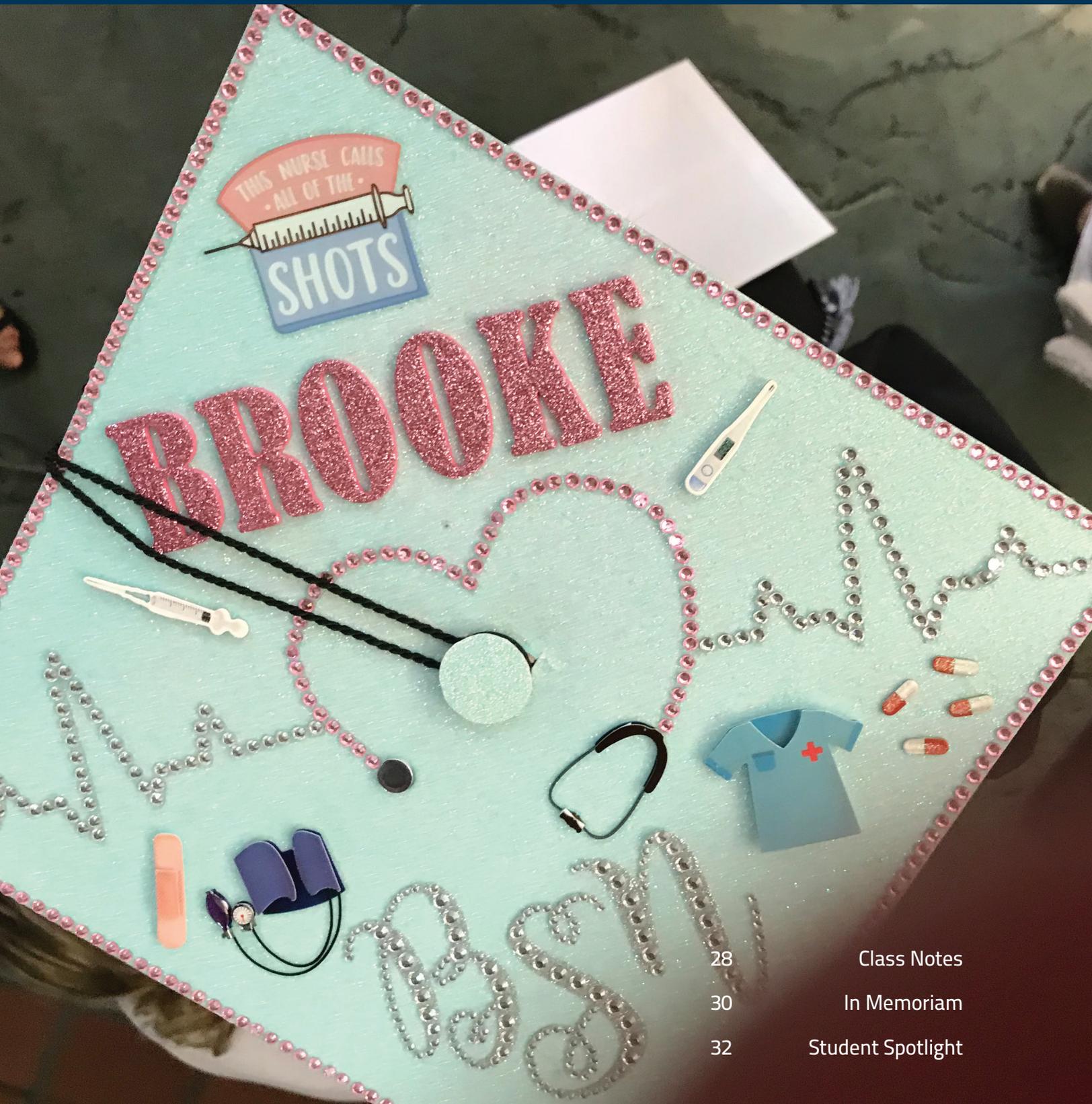
“One of the things that the workshop demonstrates is that nursing is a lifelong learning process,” Bieda said. “You never stop moving forward.”

While workshops are primarily attended by faculty members and graduate students, Bieda said the workshops have given her some ideas for BSN students.

“I’m hoping to involve more undergrads to attend and write during the school year, but it’s challenging for them given their other commitments,” she said. “As faculty, we need to develop strategies to help them become better scientific writers as a basic foundation of learning.”

Workshop participants and organizers are excited for what the progress signifies for FPB faculty. “We’re helping faculty develop a sustained pattern of productivity that promotes themselves, the FPB School of Nursing, and the field of nursing,” Terhaar said.





28

Class Notes

30

In Memoriam

32

Student Spotlight

A BSN student's mortarboard decorated in advance of graduation.

# Beyond the Classroom:

## DNP Alumni Create Post-doctoral Leadership Lecture Series

BY HELEN JONES-TOMS

**"W**hile there are many post-doctoral learning opportunities for PhD graduates," said Joyce J. Fitzpatrick, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN, Elizabeth Brooks Ford Professor, "there is a tremendous need for those experiences for DNP graduates."

More than 30 DNP alumni of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing agree. They joined forces with gifts and commitments as members of the newly created Founder's Circle to establish a DNP Post-Doctoral Leadership Lecture Series. The series is part of the school's recently founded Marian K. Shaughnessy Nurse Leadership Academy, for which Dr. Fitzpatrick serves as inaugural director.

"As DNP alumni, we looked for a way to continue our FPB engagement while making a powerful demonstration of our commitment to the future of nursing leadership," said MariLou Prado-Inzerillo, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, vice president of nursing operations at NewYork-Presbyterian and a 2017 graduate of the program.

In her role at NYP, Dr. Prado-Inzerillo has coordinated six cohorts of DNP students. She serves as the co-chair of the Founder's Circle, along with Sonya Moore, DNP, CRNA, director of the FPB Nurse Anesthesia Program and a 2016 DNP graduate.

"Our DNP graduates definitely are more confident and

empowered to influence and make decisions in multiple settings across the organization," said Dr. Prado-Inzerillo. "This lectureship will help continue to prepare them while allowing them to network with established alumni across the globe."

Dr. Fitzpatrick added, "This lecture series expands the knowledge-base and expertise of our graduates, as well as our students, while exposing them to nationally recognized leaders." She also noted that the lectureship plays an important role in the Academy's five-point plan to champion FPB as a leadership destination.

Besides clinical, academic, and executive continuing education opportunities like the lecture series, the Academy will focus on leadership development for faculty, staff and students; curriculum development including a DNP Executive Sequence; research and scholarship on nursing leadership; and in-residence and visiting faculty focused on various aspects of leadership.

The DNP Post-Doctoral Leadership Lecture Series will debut this spring in New York City. A second lecture will coincide with August DNP intensives at the school's new home in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion at the Health Education Campus in Cleveland, Ohio.

***To learn more about the lecture series, visit [case.edu/nursing/nurse-leadership-academy](http://case.edu/nursing/nurse-leadership-academy).***

## events&CELEBRATIONS



### Commencement and Pinning 2018

Recent graduates of Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing celebrated with family, friends, faculty and staff during Commencement Weekend's Pinning and Diploma Ceremonies in May 2018.

**Congratulations to our new BSN, MN, MSN, DNP, and PhD alumni.**



## 1970s



**Margaret M. Andrews (MSN '74)** as named the Founding Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan-Flint. Dr. Andrews has taught at

the university since 2006.



**Elizabeth "Betsy" Schenk (MSN '74)**, pastor of Amboy United Methodist Church in Conneaut, Ohio, was chosen Pastor of the Year,

as the clergy doing the most to help congregants grow in faith among the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church's Western Reserve District churches.

## 1980s



**Gregory Laukhuf (ND '87)** recently received the 2018 Radiology Nurse of the Year Award from the Association of Radiological and

Imaging Nurses (ARIN). Dr. Laukhuf was honored for his extensive work in the field of radiology nursing including numerous peer and non-peer reviewed publications, book chapters, edited books and podium presentations at the local, state, national and international levels. He is a past president of the Ohio Radiological Nursing Association and the Association of Radiological and Imaging Nurses. He is currently a radiology nursing manager at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

## 1990s



**Joan Slager (MSN '93)** was appointed Dean of Nursing at Frontier Nursing University (FNU). Slager has served as FNU's Interim Dean of

Nursing since March 2018 and served as the program director for FNU's Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.



**Francine Paschall (MSN '94)** was named the Chief Nurse Executive at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® Global, Inc. (CTCA), a national

comprehensive cancer care network of hospitals and outpatient care centers. She will be based at the Boca Raton headquarters and report directly to President and CEO, Rajesh Garg, MD, JD. Paschall previously served as Chief Nursing Executive for Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) East Florida Division, and prior to that as Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer for HCA's Riverside Community Hospital in California.

## 12 ALUMNI AND FACULTY NAMED AAN FELLOWS

Four faculty members, seven alumni, and one doctoral student from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing were inducted as fellows for the American Academy of Nursing this fall. The FPB affiliates represent 12 of 195 members of the 2018 class. In addition, Ada K. Jacox, PhD, RN, FAAN, who received her PhD in sociology in 1969 from Case Western Reserve University, was named a Living Legend.

### New AAN Fellows

Celeste M. Alfes, DNP'10, *faculty*  
 Ginger Breedlove, MSN'95  
 Xiaomei Sophia Cong, PhD'06  
 Emerson Ea, DNP'07  
 Deborah G. Klein, MSN'82, BSN'77  
 Deborah Lindell, DNP'03, *faculty*

Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, BSN'94  
 Polly Mazanec, PhD'09, MSN'83, *faculty*  
 Mary Beth Modic, DNP'13  
 Rosanne Raso, *doctoral student*  
 Allison Webel, *faculty*  
 James Whyte IV, ND'01



Share it with FPB to feature in the "Class Notes" section of Forefront Magazine.

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## 2000s



**Beverly Bokovitz (MSN '00)** was named Chief Nursing Officer at UC Health's University of Cincinnati Medical Center. She will oversee UC Medical Center patient care services and inpatient nursing services, working closely with other hospital leaders responsible for areas where nursing care is provided. She

represents nursing for many system initiatives and as a member of the UC Health Chief Nursing Officer Council. She previously served as Chief Nursing Executive at St. Anthony's Health Care in St. Louis.



**Ann Michelle Hartman (DNP '09)** was named Director for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Duke University. Hartman is an assistant professor in the ABSN program where she has taught a variety of didactic and clinical courses including community health and pathophysiology.

She is the current chair of the elected program committee of the ABSN program—a committee that prepared her for her position as program director.

## 2010s



**Carol Papp (DNP '10)**, Founding Dean of the University of Bridgeport School of Nursing, was named Dean of its newly created College of Health Sciences. This college includes the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, School of Nursing, School of Chiropractic, Physician Assistant Institute, Nutrition Institute, School

of Naturopathic Medicine, School of Health Professions and the Acupuncture Institute



**Karen Estridge (DNP '13)** has developed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Heidelberg University. The program, to be offered in cooperation with Terra State Community College, will provide general preparation in theoretical and clinical applications in nursing that align with

regulatory and accreditation standards. At the conclusion of the program, students will have earned an associate degree in applied science from Terra State and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Heidelberg.

## DNP Alumna Loressa Cole Named CEO of ANA Enterprise



Loressa M. Cole DNP, MBA, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, is the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ANA Enterprise.

In this role, Dr. Cole (DNP '12) will provide strategic leadership and have responsibility for the operating activities

of the Enterprise including management of staff and implementation of programs for the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and American Nurses Foundation.

Dr. Cole is an accomplished senior executive who brings more than 30 years of progressively higher leadership and management experience, most recently as Chief Officer and Executive Vice President of ANCC. ANCC promotes excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs, recognizes healthcare organizations that promote quality patient outcomes, and accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. She has been with ANCC since 2016.

She is a member of ANA, Virginia Nurses Association, American Organization of Nurses Executives, and the American College of Healthcare Executives, where she holds Fellow status. Additionally, she currently serves on the Journal of Nursing Administration's Editorial Board and the Joint Commission's Nursing Advisory Council. A past president of the Virginia Nurses Association and the Virginia Partnership for Nursing, Dr. Cole has also served on multiple boards, including The Bradley Free Clinic of Roanoke (VA), The Free Clinic of the New River Valley, and the Daily Planet (Richmond, VA).

Dr. Cole earned an associate degree in nursing from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, WV; a bachelor's degree in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA; a master's of business administration from Averett University in Danville, VA; and her DNP from FPB.

# inMEMORIAM

## 1940s



**Lois Yost Glove (DN '45)**, age 93, of Newbury, Ohio, died May 18, 2018.

**Sally Dopmeyer (DN '46)**, age 93, of Lakewood, Ohio, died March 1, 2018.



**Lois Marie Birch (MSN'47)**, age 93, of Omaha, Nebraska died March 19, 2018. She was born on the family farm near Cortland. She received a BS in Biology from Doane

College before earning her MSN from FPB. A member of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps during WWII, she taught pediatric nursing at Lincoln General Hospital before she married, and became the mother of two. She was a longtime volunteer at University of Nebraska Medical Center and a member of Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) BX Chapter.



**Army Colonel Esther Jane McNeil (BSN '48)**, age 99, of San Antonio, Texas, died July 30, 2018. McNeil enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1943 and was first

stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona. Despite some health problems, she was sent overseas to India to become head of the operating room at the 20th General Hospital in Ledo, India. McNeil was on leave in Darjeeling when she received orders to prepare for the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before her unit had made it to the Philippines. After the war, McNeil joined the Army Reserves, then went back to active duty during the Korean War. She retired in 1971.



**Marian Davidson Deemer (MN '49)**, age 92, of Pasadena, California, died May 31, 2018. She taught in Sudan in 1950, teaching first in Atbara, then

at a girl's boarding school in Khartoum North, where she also worked in a clinic which served women and small children. After returning to the United States, she worked at a community hospital in Long Beach, then as a school nurse at ABC Unified School District.

## 1950s

**Eleanor Crahen (MN '50)**, age 92, of Pleasant Garden, North Carolina, died January 21, 2018. Eleanor taught nursing at Winston-Salem State University, then worked in public health in Guilford County until she retired. She loved to read and sew quilts. She also painted watercolors, particularly of flowers, but also outdoor scenes such as the Sawtooth Mountains, and the lakeside cottage outside Penn Yan, New York, where her family spent many happy summers.



**Mary Constance "Connie" Sekerak-Hicks (FSM '48, MN '51, MSN '80)**, age 91, of Cleveland, Ohio, died June 5, 2018. A pioneer in breastfeeding and natural childbirth, she

taught childbirth classes in the 1950s and 1960s. She was one of the first Ohioans to incorporate the Lamaze childbirth method into her classes, and successfully advocated for the right of fathers to be in delivery rooms in Cleveland-area hospitals. A nurse counselor at Bellfaire JCB, she was also a staff educator at Cleveland Psychiatric Institute and graduate instructor at FPB.

**Lois Aubrey Finucane (BSN '52)**, age 89, of Naples, Florida, died August 15, 2018.



**Robert V. Kinkela (BSN '56)**, age 90, of Parma, Ohio, died June 7, 2018. A U.S. Navy Veteran, he also earned a law degree from Cleveland State University

and was married to the late **Garielle Gulyassy Kinkela (MN '50)**.



**Marjorie Baer (MN '57)**, age 89, of Audubon, Pennsylvania, died June 19, 2018.

**Catherine Hernley Lundberg (BSN '58)**, age 93, of Goshen, Indiana, died July 19, 2018. Her career included public health nursing, teaching at Goshen College, FPB, St. Alexis School of Nursing, Cuyahoga Community College, and nursing workshops in the Cleveland area.



**Eileen F. Kuntz Baldwin (BSN '59)**, age 83, of Luther Crest, Pennsylvania, died February 24, 2018. She was the wife of the late Mario A. Baldwin.

Born in Allentown, she graduated from the Abington Hospital School of Nursing in 1955, before earning her BSN from FPB and her MSN from the University of Washington in 1969. She worked at Abington Memorial Hospital in the School of Nursing, Allentown Hospital, and Phoebe Home, and was a nursing instructor at Cedar Crest College and De Sales University.

## 1960s



**Maureen Erceg (BSN '62)**, age 85, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, died May 9, 2018. A nurse at University Hospitals of Cleveland and later a school nurse

## inMEMORIAM

at her children's elementary school, she loved playing the piano and being an active member of the Fortnightly Musical Club of Cleveland. Her impromptu performances — ranging from Mozart to 1940s hits — were always a high point of family gatherings.



**Bonita Buyan LaFleur, (BSN '66)**, age 75, of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, died in June 2018.

**Cecilia Schlosser (MSN '67)**, age 84, of Youngstown, Ohio, died August 5, 2018. The assistant director of nursing at Woodside Receiving Hospital, she taught at FPB as an assistant professor in psychiatric nursing. In addition, she worked at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in England, Germany, and Japan.

### 1970s

**Ann-Louise Selim (BSN '75)**, age 69, of Palm Harbor, Florida, died March 1, 2018.

### 1980s



**Helen Troisi Pranzatelli, (MSN '83)**, age 92, of Jacksonville, Florida, died January 29, 2018. Born in Raritan, New Jersey, she was married for 64 years to the

late musician/educator Ferdinand D. Pranzatelli, PhD. After raising their two children, she earned a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Duquesne University, MSN from FPB, and a PhD in Education from University of Pittsburgh. She was a professor and director of Nursing at Elmira College in Elmira, New York, before retiring to Florida with her husband.

### 1990s



**Noreen C. Moran (MSN '91)**, age 76, of Warwick, Rhode Island, died August 11, 2018. She entered religious life with the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1959, where she would remain for

the next 36 years. Known then as Sr. Rita William, she taught mathematics at various schools including a school in Kenya, East Africa for three years. Upon her return to the United States she continued to teach until enrolling in nursing school. She became a certified nurse midwife in the Providence area and assisted in the delivery of more than 645 babies.

### 2010s



**Erica L. Portis (MSN '14)**, age 43, of Akron, Ohio, died July 4, 2018. She earned her BSN from the University of Akron, graduating *summa cum laude*. She continued her education becoming

a Nurse Anesthetist at Cleveland Clinic. She is survived by her husband, Michael, and their three children.

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This memorial section lists deceased alumni and friends of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing for whom death notices were received between February 1, 2018 and August 31, 2018.

## Nursing Naval Legend, Ret. Rear Admiral Alene R. Duerk, Passes



Alene B. Duerk (BSN '48), 96, of Lake Mary, Florida, the first woman to attain the rank of Rear Admiral, died July 21, 2018. Duerk enlisted in the Navy Nurse

Corps in 1943, and in 1945 boarded one of the Navy's new hospital ships, the *Benevolence*, setting off for the Marshall Islands and Japan. The expectation was that the ship would support an Allied invasion of Japan, but the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki resulted in the ship instead receiving newly liberated U.S. prisoners of war.

"We pulled into Japan when the peace treaty was signed," Duerk told *The Orlando Sentinel* in 1994, "and we helped evacuate the POWs — a very moving experience."

In 1946, released from active service with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, she returned to Ohio, working

in several hospitals and earning a bachelor's degree in ward management and teaching, and medical and surgical nursing at FPB in 1948. That year she also joined the Naval Reserve, and in 1951, with the Korean War underway, was recalled to active duty and served as a nursing instructor at the Naval Hospital Corps School in Portsmouth, Virginia.

In 1970, by then Duerk, who had reached the rank of Captain, was put in charge of the Navy Nurse Corps, and was soon promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, a rank below a Full Admiral and the equivalent of an Army two-star general. In September 1972 she presided over the swearing in of nine female recruits aboard the *USS Constitution*, the ship known as *Old Ironsides*, in Boston Harbor. She retired in 1975.

"I didn't go into the Navy for a lifetime, I went in for six months," she told an interviewer in 2016. "But I had an amazing career."



## Finding her Niche: BSN-student-turned-policymaker

BY ELIZABETH LUNDBLAD

**T**he decision to apply for a board position for the Ohio Student Nurses Association (OhSNA), a state chapter of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), wasn't on Christine Smothers' radar during her third week of classes at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

But an advertisement in an OhSNA newsletter announcing state chapter elections caught Smothers' eye. Now, a third year BSN student, Smothers won a spot on OhSNA's board in her freshman year.

"Although I was uncertain about my choice at the time, I took on the challenge to run for the state board as a freshman. Now, I am finishing my second term as Health Policy and Advocacy Director for OhSNA and am so grateful for the learning opportunity," she said. "I would never have seen the policy perspective of nursing or learned as much about leadership and organizational structure had I not become involved with OhSNA."

In Spring 2018, Smothers was elected to the national board of directors for NSNA, where she serves as a director and chair of the Health Policy and Advocacy Committee.

"When I was first elected, I set the goal to create accessible opportunities for member involvement. Imagine the change that our 60,000 members can create by coming together," she said. "My major initiative as the committee chair is to create, for the first time in NSNA history, a Health Policy Task Force. Members of the Task Force will develop policy briefings to educate the NSNA constituency about the status of U.S. policy related to the resolutions that members pass at the annual NSNA House of Delegates."

Additionally, Smothers' committee is exploring other initiatives, such as a possible partnership between NSNA and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA).

Having reached the halfway point of her undergraduate education at the School of Nursing, Smothers'

favorite courses so far have been the community clinicals.

"The community clinicals pull together what we've learned in our core classes to make a positive impact in our community, while we're making fun memories with kids and seeing more of Cleveland," she said. "Every semester, I get to know a different group of people. Plus, there's something about the very early—or very late—hours with my classmates. The little moments like breaking for snacks, reflecting on classes, and swapping jokes remind me we're in it together."

BSN students receive automatic membership in NSNA when they start at the School of Nursing. Smothers said students should take every opportunity to explore different kinds of fields within and beyond nursing.

"The large variety of careers in nursing means you can find your own niche, or invent it," she added. "As you search for what you love, nursing will give you the path to develop your passion into a career."

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